

Iowa State University

ISSN 0003-4827

Material in the public domain. No restrictions on use.

Recommended Citation

The Annals of Iowa, 5(4) (Oct. 1867): 960-964

Hosted by [Iowa Research Online](#)

gust as a vacation, in which the pupils may visit their homes and friends.

"Scholars from Iowa of a suitable age and capacity for education, and who conform to the regulations of the institution, will receive their boarding and instruction at the expense of the institution. Their friends will be expected to furnish them with a competent supply of clothing and to be at the expense of their traveling to and from the institution.

"Pupils may be admitted from other States upon payment of \$170 per annum.

"Applications should be addressed to the Principal, [James L. Geddes,] Vinton, Benton Co. Iowa, and should contain answers to the following questions:

"1st. What is the name, age, residence, nativity and cause of blindness of the applicant? Who is the nearest friend and to what Post Office should the reply be sent?

"2d. Is the applicant of sound mind, free from contagious diseases, and of sufficient physical strength to receive an education?

"3d. Is he or she totally blind? If not is the degree of blindness such as to prevent the acquirement of an education in a school for the seeing?

"4th. How has the applicant been heretofore employed? What instruction has he or she received, and at what age did he or she become blind?

"5th. Who will provide clothing for the applicant and take charge of him or her during vacation?

"Upon proper answers to the foregoing questions, parties interested will be notified as to the result of the application."

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY.

BY THE EDITOR.

The Fall Term of this institution has opened under very favorable auspices. The Faculty has been increased by the addition of Prof. S. N. Fellows, who takes charge of the Normal Department; and Prof. Charles A. White, the present very efficient State Geologist, who takes charge of the class

in geology (not, however, to the interruption of his labor for the State at large). Prof. A. N. Currier takes the chair of Ancient Languages, filling the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Prof. Roberts. In regard to each of these gentlemen, we believe they are proving daily that the Trustees have been fortunate in their selection. Professors Leonard, Heinrichs, Parvin and Eggert retain their respective chairs. Prof. Leonard still continues the acting President and active head of the institution.

At the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees, a resolution was adopted, raising the standard for admission to the Preparatory Department to such an extent as to abolish what has heretofore been known as the First Year Class. Though the necessity may once have existed for the admission of this low grade of pupils, the rapid progress of our common and high schools has rendered it unnecessary for the present and the future. This action, however, does not render the numbers in attendance less than the preceding term.

From the catalogue of last year we see that there were 258 pupils in the now excised class, which would leave 380 whose advancement was such as to leave them still qualified to continue; while already really as many tickets have been issued as at the corresponding date last year; and we are satisfied that the examinations for admission have been unusually rigid, resulting in the rejection of several who were applicants, besides, no doubt, deterring many from making the attempt. The Professors unanimously pronounce an improvement in the material of their classes, and we find them much encouraged in their work.

There is no doubt but the University would assume a much higher standing than it does, in the estimation of the people of the State, if it were known more extensively than it is, just what is being done. A visit of a day, and an inspection of its workings, by any one interested in its welfare, would well repay the visitor in the encouragement and satisfaction it would give him of its usefulness.

We will indicate briefly a few of the prominent features of

the student-work that would strike his attention upon such a visit. Entering the University grounds at an hour so early that the dew, still undissolved by the morning sun, lies in crystal globes upon the foliage, a "chain-gang" may cross his path and lead to the inquiry of the character and cause of their early occupation. Such inquiry would elicit the fact that a class of surveyors, perhaps thirty in number, with chains, compasses and theodolites, are engaged in laying out the college campus into all manner of plats of every definable geometrical shape, and some, perhaps, not easily defined.

Strolling beyond the college to the bank of the beautiful river that sweeps the base of the bluff on which the buildings stand, the remainder of the class may be met in similar employment, piercing the unoffending stream with the "acutest of angles," and dotting its face with the sharpest of "points," all of which it bears with only a "gentle murmur" of complaint.

Going into their room at the hour of recitation, will be heard the reports of the various sections in regard to their surveys of the day before, and although now and then an unfortunate measurement sets the class in a roar at the expense of the section who made it, still there is an earnestness, a *working spirit* manifest, that speaks an ultimate mastery of this important science and art, and speaks well, also, for the industry and clearness of method with which they are taught.

Crossing over to the newest and finest of the three buildings, and entering the chemical laboratory, he will find the stands all occupied by young gentlemen who spend several hours every day in practical efforts to discover, by arts best known to the initiated, what elements compose the various solutions which have been prepared to test their skill.

The Arabian alchemist of the olden time bending and sweating over his crucible in search of the vital elixir with which he hoped to rejuvenate his ancient wrinkled form, could not have manifested greater intensity of interest in his occupation than is exhibited by these young enthusiasts in witnessing the wonderful phenomena of the laws of nature as

developed by the strange affinities and reactions under their hand and eye.

This is an elegant building, and this a finely appointed and commodious room; this an intelligent and enthusiastic class, and this a laborious and intellectual Professor, and we shall be much disappointed if the founding of this laboratory does not result in the advancement of science itself and bring great honor to the State that fosters it.

In the Preparatory Department he will find the Principal, Mr. Howell, a young gentleman of fine acquirements and great industry, a graduate of the Institution, hard at work.

Mr. Howell succeeds to the vacancy caused by the death of the lamented Borland, the ripest scholar of his years, and one of the most faithful and successful educators who ever graced a Professor's chair in an institution of learning, and who fell early in life's battle a victim to his insatiate thirst for the truths of science and unconquerable desire and effort for usefulness.

"Oh what a noble heart was here undone
When science' self destroyed her favorite son."

* * * * *
"Twas thine own genius gave the fatal blow
And helped to plant the wound that laid thee low."

The discipline and progress of these classes and the respectful manner with which the pupils speak to and of their teacher in and "out of school," indicate that he is making his mark as a first class teacher, and that he is winning his way to their esteem to the fullest degree possible in following one so gifted and popular as his predecessor.

We have instanced these departments because of two of them, the practical character of their studies, or rather the practical application made of the sciences pursued in the method of their acquisition, and the large numbers in the third, brings them prominently under the observation of the visitor. Yet, go where you will throughout all its departments, and every where will be found live, practical teachers and a class of intelligent and enthusiastic students that would be an honor to any institution East or West.

The policy of the Board of Trustees has been thus far a liberal one. They are educating free of expense every Iowa soldier enlisted for three years and honorably discharged. Also all orphans of Iowa soldiers. Besides these, four free students are admitted upon proper recommendation from every county in the State.

With such a policy continued and the still generous action of the legislature, and with such a practical course of instruction, we cannot but indulge in anticipations of a brilliant future for this the choicest and noblest of the institutions fostered by the State.

EDITORIAL NOTES AND REMARKS.

In the next number of *THE ANNALS* will appear an article from our former correspondent from Clayton County, Hon. Eliphalet Price, who having resumed the pen will entertain our readers and serve the State and the future with more of his interesting sketches of the early days of Iowa.

Hon. Charles Negus continues his valuable papers. Hon. Wm. L. Toole of Toolsburg, one of the earliest settlers in Louisa County, will furnish sketches and recollections of the early days of his locality. Also Eight Months in Rebel Prisons of the 8th, 12th and 14th Regiments Iowa Infantry, by one of their number, an officer of the 12th.

These regiments were captured on that memorable first line at Shiloh, after a defense that lasted all day from reveille in the morning until 5 o'clock in the afternoon, a single division holding the larger portion of the rebel forces in check, in heroic obedience to orders to "hold the position," and surrendering only when isolated from the rest of the army by its giving way, they were entirely surrounded by a numerical rebel force, against which it was useless and suicidal to contend. The story of their prison life will be graphically told by its accomplished writer.

Curtis' History of the Army of the South-West will be continued and other interesting and appropriate matter.

Copyright of *Annals of Iowa* is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.